



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*

*Boston, MA 02114-2119*

Mitt Romney  
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 26, 2006

**CONTACT:** Vanessa Gulati  
617-626-1119

## **HEALEY OPENS STATE POOLS & BEACHES FOR SEASON**

*Early opening of DCR facilities to provide summer recreational opportunities*

Just in time for the warm weather expected for Memorial Day Weekend, Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey today announced the official opening of state beaches and pools for the summer season. The announcement marks one of the earliest seasonal openings ever for beaches and pools operated by the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) with 18 beaches and 10 spray and wading pools scheduled to be open and staffed by lifeguards starting tomorrow. In previous years DCR beaches and pools opened in late June.

“Across Massachusetts, DCR pools and beaches provide fun places for children and families to enjoy the warm weather months ahead,” said Healey.

“I am pleased to see these facilities opening for Memorial Day Weekend,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen Burrington. “It is through the great effort of the staff at DCR that we will have these facilities open earlier than ever before with lifeguards scheduled to work at our most popular beaches and pools.”

In addition to Artesani Wading Pool nine other DCR pools are scheduled to open tomorrow, including:

- Beaver Brook Spray Deck in Belmont;
- Bradley Palmer Wading Pool in Topsfield;
- Freetown Wading Pool in Freetown;
- Johnson Spray Deck in Jamaica Plain;
- Lee Spray pool in Boston;
- Moynihan Wading Pool in Hyde Park;
- Stony Brook Spray Deck in Jamaica Plain;

All other pools will open on Fathers Day Weekend, Saturday, June 17, 2006 coinciding with the end of the school year for most Massachusetts schools.

Lifeguards will be located at the following beaches:

- Carson Beach in South Boston;
- Chicopee State Park Beach in Chicopee
- Cochetuate State Park in Natick;
- College Pond in Plymouth
- Demarst Lloyd Beach in Dartmouth;
- Hopkinton Beach in Hopkinton;
- Horseneck Beach in Westport;
- Houghton's Pond in Milton;
- John A. Pearce Lake in Saugus;
- Nahant Beach in Nahant;
- Nantasket Beach in Hull;
- Pleasure Bay Beach in South Boston;
- Revere Beach in Revere;
- Salisbury Beach in Salisbury;
- Sandy Beach in Winchester;
- Scussett Beach in Sandwich;
- Walden Pond Main Beach in Concord; and,
- Wallum Lake Beach in Douglas.

While the beginning of spring and the opening of beaches and pools is an exciting time, DCR urges recreational users to practice safe water use:

- Parents should watch young children at all times especially at beaches that do not yet have lifeguards
- No one should swim alone
- Severe weather conditions, especially lightning can create hazardous swimming situations
- Be aware of rip currents at ocean beaches
- Practice sun safety: always wear sun screen and avoid direct sun exposure
- Read posted signs and warnings and always wear a personal floatation device when using kayaks, canoes or motor boats.

Pools are open from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., seven days a week. However, hours may vary at certain facilities depending on use. DCR recommends checking with local pools for specific hours. A list of all DCR facilities and their contact info is available by visiting their website <http://www.massparks.org>.

####